

Cervical Cancer Detection and the Registered Nurse

A Joint Statement by the California Medical Association, the California Hospital Association, the California Nurses' Association and the California Conference of Local Health Officers.

TO PROMOTE GOOD patient care, and protect the doctor, the registered nurse, and the institution or agency, the California Nurses' Association, the California Hospital Association, the California Medical Association and the California Conference of Local Health Officers recognize the legal right of registered nurses to take cytological cervical smears for cancer as one of the methods of determining if cancer is present, but only if all the following conditions exist:

1. The technique is to be performed in an agency or institution, and

2. Where the technique is to be performed in an agency or institution, the procedure is to be performed upon the order of a physician. The technique is to be performed within the framework of preparation and procedures for practice of the registered nurse, which have been established for the agency or institution by a committee composed of representatives of the agency or institution, physicians, registered nurses, and administration. This framework of preparation, and of practice is to be reproduced in writing and made available to the total medical and nursing personnel, and

3. It is the jurisdiction of that committee in that agency or institution to:

- a) decide if the registered nurse may perform the technique
- b) determine the preparation to be required of the registered nurse
- c) establish inservice teaching to be required, and
- d) establish the technique or techniques to be used.

June 15, 1968.

Cancer Quackery Curbs

EIGHT CANCER REMEDIES and diagnostic tests are now on the list of quack drugs according to announcement from the Cancer Advisory Council to the California State Department of Health. They are Krebiozen, Hoxsey, Koch Antitoxin, Lincoln Staphage Lysate, Laetrile, Mucorhycin, and the Anthrone tests.

During 1967, criminal or administrative action was brought against seven persons under a state law designed to curb medical quackery in California in cancer diagnosis and treatment. Four were found guilty; two were given warnings after citation hearings; and two were served with cease-and-desist orders, in one case in addition to a court sentence.

California's cancer quackery law, first passed in 1959, was reenacted in 1965 and 1967, when it was significantly strengthened by placing the burden of proof of safety and efficacy of a drug, medicine, compound, or device on the proponent of the agent rather

than requiring the State Department of Health to disprove its usefulness.

In this and other respects, the cancer law is patterned after federal regulations dealing with the use or sale and shipment of new drugs. It also makes violations of regulations or cease-and-desist orders enacted under the law misdemeanors.

Current officers and board members of the Advisory Council are: David A. Wood, M.D., chairman, San Francisco; Helen G. Brown, vice-chairman, Van Nuys; Sol R. Baker, M.D., Los Angeles; Marvel L. Brenner, San Bernardino; John W. Cline, M.D., San Francisco; John E. Connolly, M.D., Los Angeles; Emanuel Fineman, Los Angeles; Thomas S. Nelsen, M.D., Palo Alto; Joseph F. Ross, M.D., Los Angeles; George S. Sharp, M.D., Pasadena; Sol Silverman, Jr., D.D.S.; Ralph J. Thompson, Jr., Loma Linda; Edward Zalta, M.D., Glendora; and Louis M. Saylor, M.D., ex-officio member.